



## Virginia Department of Fire Programs Fighting Fires with Facts Newsletter

October 2009  
Volume 2 Issue 3



### IMPORTANT DATES

#### **October 15, 2009**

- September Incident reports are due

#### **October 17-18, 2009**

- VFRIS Train-the-Trainer Class at VDFP Headquarters.

#### **November 2, 2009**

- VFIRS Audit due

#### **November 15, 2009**

- October Incident reports are due

#### **December 15, 2009**

- November Incident reports are due

#### **January 15, 2010**

- December Incident reports are due

### **VDFP News**

- **National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System program** available on VDFP-FST Knowledge Centre'. See [www.vafire.com](http://www.vafire.com) for details.
- The **Get Alarmed, Virginia!** smoke alarm installation and education campaign saved 5 more lives in the Mt. Crawford community of Rockingham County, VA on June 9.

### Farewell from Marion

I write notes as a visual reminder to stay focused on my goals. After a 2 a.m. talk with my wife, I wrote the note "Let Go!" It is difficult "letting go" of things, that means so much. However, the time has come to let go and trust that the faith, preparation, and training invested will yield rewards. I am letting go of my family at the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and the National Fire Information Council that I have grown up with for most of my working years. I am confident that Virginia will continue to be one of the best NFIRS reporting states and nationwide NFIRS will get the recognition and respect it deserves.

Starting September, Dwight Crews will be the Virginia NFIRS Program Manager with Renee Tabb providing key support that makes the system operate efficiently. They share my passion towards NFIRS, setting goals, and customer service. As for me, I will be doing what I love to do - setting more goals and sharing my belief at the national level that NFIRS has great value to the fire service and to all users of fire data. NFIRS is not as difficult as we make it. It starts with "following the rules".

As many of you all know, Marion retired from the agency effective August 28, 2009 with over 30 years of dedicated service. He was the driving force to make Virginia a leader in incident reporting. We appreciate all he has done for the program and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

### New Information & Statistics Contact Information

As of August 31, 2009, Dwight Crews was appointed Acting Manager of the Information & Statistics for DFP. Please contact either Dwight or Renee for training, data requests and VFIRS related information.

Dwight Crews

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## ATTENTION FIREHOUSE USERS

### Cancelled En route Validation Error

Departments receiving validation errors returned to them by their state reporting agency specifically for units cancelled en route having invalid times should install the Cancelled Unit System Rule to apply a temporary rule in FIREHOUSE Software. The .FHx file will install a system rule and a special browsing query. The rule will make the Unit Actions Taken code 93 required for units cancelled en route. The browsing query, titled 'Incidents With Cancelled Units Without Action 93', is designed to display incident reports needing to be edited before submitting the incidents to your state. The query can be run from the Incident module. Select the Browse button for the query window to appear. Select the drop down arrow to locate the query. Incident records displayed by the query should be opened and edited with the required unit actions taken code 93 on the appropriate units.

Departments using CAD Monitor to automatically populate responding unit records MUST open the unit records and enter the requirement individually. A future version of CAD Monitor will automatically populate this information. Development of the FH 7.5 maintenance release is nearing completion. This maintenance release will address all of the NFIRS 2009 changes.

**Direct link to edit:** <http://www.firehousesoftware.com/sup/index.php>

Once on the webpage, look to the right under the 'Downloads' section for the link labeled 'Cancelled Unit System Rule'. We highly recommend printing the directions to download the file because DFP employees are not subject matter experts on Firehouse software. If you have any questions, you may contact Firehouse directly or if you are not sure if you need to download the update please call Renee Tabb at 804-249-1987.

Several departments throughout the state utilize that Firehouse software are receiving validation errors when submitting VFIRS reports. The example below shows how the error appears on the Validation Report that is sent to each department that submits data to our department for processing.

#### Example of Validation Error

FDID	DATE	INC#	EXP	MODULE	ERROR MESSAGE	ERROR TYPE	DATA FILE
XXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXX	XXXX	Apparatus Module	Apparatus Clear Time must be equal to/after Incident Arrival Time unless Canceled Enroute	Critical	Apparatus Clear Time

Note: The information provided is courtesy of <http://www.firehousesoftware.com>

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*Success: To laugh often and much, to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children, to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded!*

~Ralph Waldo Emerson